

1 CLAIMS

2  
3 What is claimed is:

4  
5 1. A method comprising:  
6 providing an initial digital good to at least one computer; and  
7 converting the initial digital good into a modified digital good using unique  
8 key data to selectively individualize the initial digital good, such that the modified  
9 digital good is operatively different in configuration, but substantially functionally  
10 equivalent to the initial digital good.

11  
12 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein converting the initial digital  
13 good into the modified digital good using unique key data to selectively  
14 individualize the initial digital good further includes manipulating at least one  
15 flow control operation within the initial digital good.

16  
17 3. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
18 generating the unique key data based on at least one unique identifier data  
19 associated with a destination computer.

20  
21 4. A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:  
22 selectively limiting operation of the modified digital good to computers that  
23 ~~are properly associated with at least the unique identifier data.~~

1           5.     A method as recited in claim 3, wherein generating the unique key  
2 data further includes:

3                 causing the destination computer to provide the unique identifier data  
4 associated with the destination computer to a source computer; and

5                 causing the source computer to cryptographically generate the unique key  
6 data based on the unique identifier data provided by the destination computer and  
7 at least one secret key.

8  
9  
10           6.     A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the unique key data includes  
11 at least a first key and a second key, and the first key and the second key are  
12 different, but cryptographically related to the secret key.

13  
14           7.     A method as recited in claim 1, wherein providing an initial digital  
15 good to the computer further includes:

16                 dividing the initial digital good into at least a first portion and a second  
17 portion using a source computer;

18                 providing the first portion to a destination computer via a first computer  
19 readable medium; and

20                 subsequently providing the second portion to the destination computer via a  
21 ~~second computer readable medium.~~

1           8.     A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the first computer readable  
2 medium includes a different type of computer readable medium than the second  
3 computer readable medium.

4  
5           9.     A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the first computer readable  
6 medium includes a fixed computer readable medium and the second computer  
7 readable medium includes a network communication.

8  
9           10.    A method as recited in claim 7, wherein providing the second  
10 portion to the destination computer further includes:

11                converting the second portion into a modified second portion using the  
12 unique key data to selectively manipulate at least one flow control operation  
13 within the second portion, such that the modified second portion is operatively  
14 different in configuration, but substantially functionally equivalent to the second  
15 portion; and

16                providing the modified second portion to the destination computer via the  
17 second computer readable medium, in place of the second portion.

18  
19           11.    A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the source computer is  
20 ~~used to convert the second portion into a modified second portion.~~

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12. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the unique key data includes at least a first key and a second key, and converting the second portion into a modified second portion further includes using the second key to selectively manipulate at least one flow control operation within the second portion.

13. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the unique key data includes at least a first key and a second key, and providing the second portion to the destination computer further includes providing the first key to the destination computer.

14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein converting the initial digital good into a modified digital good further includes

converting the first portion into a modified first portion using the first key to selectively manipulate at least one flow control operation within the first portion, such that the modified first portion is operatively different in configuration, but substantially functionally equivalent to the first portion; and

causing the destination computer to operatively combine the modified first portion and the modified second portion to produce the modified digital good.

15. A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising:  
selectively limiting operation of the modified digital good to computers that are properly associated with at least the first key.

16. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein causing the destination computer to provide the unique identifier data associated with the destination computer to the source computer further includes:

accessing computer identification data within the destination computer and including the computer identification data within the unique identifier data associated with the destination computer.

17. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein causing the destination computer to provide the unique identifier data associated with the destination computer to the source computer further includes:

receiving user identification data at the destination computer and including the user identification data within the unique identifier data associated with the destination computer.

18. A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for:

receiving an initial digital good;

receiving unique key data; and

converting the initial digital good into a modified digital good using the unique key data to selectively individualize the initial digital good, such that the modified digital good is operatively different in configuration, but substantially functionally equivalent to the initial digital good.

19. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 18, wherein converting the initial digital good into the modified digital good using the unique

1 key data to selectively individualize the initial digital good further includes  
2 manipulating at least one flow control operation within the initial digital good.

3  
4 20. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 18, comprising  
5 further computer-executable instructions for:

6 determining if a host computer is properly associated with at least the  
7 unique identifier data ; and

8 disabling operation of the modified digital good if the host computer that is  
9 not properly associated with the unique identifier data.

10  
11 21. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 18, comprising  
12 further computer-executable instructions for:

13 causing the host computer to provide unique identifier data associated with  
14 the host computer to at least one source computer that is configurable to  
15 cryptographically generate the unique key data based on the unique identifier data  
16 and at least one secret key.

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1           22.    A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 18, wherein:  
2           receiving an initial digital good further includes receiving a first portion of  
3           the digital good via a first type of computer readable medium and a modified  
4           second portion of the digital good via a second computer readable medium; and  
5           converting the initial digital good into a modified digital good further  
6           includes converting the first portion using the unique key data to selectively  
7           manipulate at least one flow control operation within the first portion, to produce a  
8           modified first portion that is operatively different in configuration, but  
9           substantially functionally equivalent to the first portion, and then operatively  
10          combining the modified first portion and the modified second portion to produce  
11          the modified digital good.

12  
13          23.    A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 22, wherein the  
14          first computer readable medium includes a different type of computer readable  
15          medium than the second computer readable medium.

16  
17          24.    A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 23, wherein the  
18          first computer readable medium includes a fixed computer readable medium and  
19          the second computer readable medium includes a network communication.





1 to selectively individualize the portion of the initial digital good further includes  
2 manipulating at least one flow control operation within the portion of the initial  
3 digital good.

4  
5 29A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 27, wherein generating  
6 the unique key data further includes:

7 cryptographically generating the unique key data based on the unique  
8 identifier data provided by the host computer and at least one secret key.

9  
10 30. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 29, wherein the  
11 unique key data includes at least a first key and a second key, and the first key and  
12 ~~the second key are different, but cryptographically related to the secret key.~~

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1        31. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 29, wherein  
2 converting at least portion of the initial digital good using the unique key data  
3 further includes:

4            dividing the initial digital good into at least a first portion and a second  
5 portion;

6            providing the first portion to the host computer via a first computer  
7 readable medium;

8            converting the second portion using the second key to selectively  
9 manipulate at least one flow control operation within the second portion, such that  
10 a modified second portion is produced that is operatively different in  
11 configuration, but substantially functionally equivalent to the second portion ; and

12            providing the modified second portion and the first key to the host  
13 computer via a second computer readable medium.

14  
15        32. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the  
16 first computer readable medium includes a different type of computer readable  
17 medium than the second computer readable medium.

18  
19        33. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 32, wherein the  
20 first computer readable medium includes a fixed computer readable medium and  
21 ~~the second computer readable medium includes a network communication.~~

1           34. An arrangement for use in a host computer, the arrangement  
2 comprising:

3           an individualizer configured to receive unique key data and at least a  
4 portion of an initial digital good from at least one source computer, and produce at  
5 least a portion of a modified digital good using the unique key data to selectively  
6 individualize the initial digital good, such that the modified digital good is  
7 operatively different in configuration, but substantially functionally equivalent to  
8 the initial digital good.

9  
10           35. An arrangement as recited in claim 34, wherein the individualizer is  
11 further configured to selectively individualize the initial digital good by selectively  
12 manipulating at least one program flow control operation within the initial digital  
13 good.

14           36. An arrangement as recited in claim 34, wherein the unique key data  
15 is cryptographically related to unique identifier data associated with the host  
16 computer.

17  
18           37. An arrangement as recited in claim 34, further comprising:  
19 an identifier configured to output the unique identifier data associated with  
20 ~~the host computer to the source computer.~~

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1        38.    An arrangement as recited in claim 34, further comprising:  
2        a program combiner configured to receive a modified first portion of the  
3        digital good from the individualizer and a modified second portion from the source  
4        computer, and output the modified digital good by combining the modified first  
5        portion with the modified second portion.

6  
7        39.    An arrangement as recited in claim 34, wherein the modified digital  
8        good is operatively configured to selectively verify that the host computer is  
9        properly associated with the unique identifier data output by the identifier.

10  
11       40.    An arrangement as recited in claim 34, wherein the modified digital  
12       good is operatively configured to selectively verify that the host computer is  
13       properly associated with the unique key data.

14  
15       41.    An arrangement as recited in claim 37, wherein the identifier is  
16       further configured to access computer identification data within the host computer  
17       and include the computer identification data within the unique identifier data  
18       associated with the host computer.

19  
20       42.    An arrangement as recited in claim 37, wherein the identifier is  
21       further configured to receive user identification data at the host computer and  
22       include the user identification data within the unique identifier data associated  
23       ~~with the host computer.~~

1           43.    An arrangement for use in a source computer, the arrangement  
2 comprising:

3           a key generator configured to receive a unique identifier data from a  
4 destination computer and generate unique key data based on the received unique  
5 identifier data associated with the destination computer; and

6           an individualizer configured to receive the unique key data and at least a  
7 portion of an initial digital good and output at least a portion of a modified digital  
8 good using the unique key data to selectively individualize the initial digital good,  
9 such that the modified digital good is operatively different in configuration, but  
10 substantially functionally equivalent to the initial digital good.

11  
12           44.    An arrangement as recited in claim 43, wherein the individualizer is  
13 further configured to selectively individualize the initial digital good by  
14 manipulating at least one program flow control operation within the initial digital  
15 good.

16  
17           45.    An arrangement as recited in claim 43, further comprising:  
18 a splitter configured to divide the initial digital good into at least a first  
19 portion and a second portion, provide the first portion to the individualizer, and  
20 ~~provide the second portion to the destination computer.~~

1           46.    An arrangement as recited in claim 45, wherein the key generator is  
2 further configured to cryptographically generate the unique key data based on the  
3 unique identifier data and at least one secret key, the unique key data includes at  
4 least a first key and a second key which are unique, but cryptographically related  
5 to the secret key, and wherein the key generator is configured to provide the first  
6 key is to the individualizer, and the second key to the destination computer.

7  
8           47.    An arrangement as recited in claim 46, wherein the individualizer is  
9 further configured to use the second key to selectively individualize the second  
10 portion, such that a resulting modified second portion is operatively different in  
11 configuration from the second portion, but substantially functionally equivalent to  
12 the second portion.

13  
14           48.    An arrangement as recited in claim 45, wherein the splitter is further  
15 configured to allow the first portion to be provided to the destination computer via  
16 a first computer readable medium, and to provide the modified second portion to  
17 the destination computer via a second computer readable medium that is a  
18 different type of computer readable medium than the first computer readable  
19 medium.

20  
21           49.    An arrangement as recited in claim 48, wherein the first computer  
22 readable medium includes a fixed computer readable medium and the second  
23 computer readable medium includes a network communication.

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1        50.    A system comprising:  
2        an identifier configured to output unique identifier data associated with a  
3        computer;  
4        a key generator coupled to receive the unique identifier data and generate at  
5        least one unique key data based on the received unique identifier data; and  
6        at least one individualizer configured to receive the unique key data and at  
7        least a portion of an initial digital good and output at least a portion of a modified  
8        digital good using the unique key data to selectively individualize the initial digital  
9        good, such that the modified digital good is operatively different in configuration,  
10       but substantially functionally equivalent to the initial digital good.

11  
12       51.    A system as recited in claim 50, wherein the individualizer is further  
13       configured to selectively individualize the initial digital good by manipulating at  
14       least one program flow control operation within the initial digital good.

15  
16       52.    A system as recited in claim 50, further comprising:  
17       at least one source computer; and  
18       at least one destination computer coupled to the source computer.

19  
20       53.    A system as recited in claim 52, wherein the identifier is provided  
21       within the destination computer and is configured to output unique identifier data  
22       associated with the destination computer to the source computer, and the key  
23       ~~generator and individualizer are each provided within the source computer~~

24  
25

1           54.    A system as recited in claim 52, wherein the identifier is provided  
2 within the destination computer and is configured to output unique identifier data  
3 associated with the destination computer to the source computer, the key generator  
4 is provided within the source computer, and the individualizer is provided within  
5 the destination computer.

6  
7           55.    A system as recited in claim 52, wherein the identifier is provided  
8 within the destination computer and is configured to output unique identifier data  
9 associated with the destination computer to the source computer, the key generator  
10 is provided within the source computer, a first individualizer is provided within  
11 the destination computer, and a second individualizer is provided within the source  
12 computer.

13  
14           56.    A system as recited in claim 55, further comprising:  
15           a splitter provided within the source computer and configured to divide the  
16 initial digital good into at least a first portion and a second portion, provide the  
17 first portion to the first individualizer, and provide the second portion to the  
18 second individualizer.



57. A system as recited in claim 56, wherein the key generator is further configured to cryptographically generate the unique key data based on the unique identifier data and at least one secret key, the unique key data includes at least a first key and a second key which are unique, but cryptographically related to the secret key, the first key is provided to the first individualizer, and the second key is provided to the second individualizer.

58. A system as recited in claim 57, wherein the first individualizer is further configured to use the first key to selectively individualize the first portion, such that the resulting modified first portion is operatively different in configuration from the first portion, but substantially functionally equivalent to the first portion.

59. A system as recited in claim 58, wherein the second individualizer is further configured to use the second key to selectively individualize the second portion, such that the resulting modified second portion is operatively different in configuration from the second portion, but substantially functionally equivalent to the second portion.

60. A system as recited in claim 59, further comprising:  
a combiner provided within the destination computer and configured to receive the modified first portion from the first individualizer and the modified second portion from the second individualizer, and output the modified digital good by combining the modified first portion with the modified second portion.

1           61.    A system as recited in claim 50, wherein the modified digital good is  
2   operatively configured to selectively verify that the destination computer is  
3   properly associated with the unique identifier data output by the identifier.

4  
5           62.    A system as recited in claim 50, wherein the modified digital good  
6   is operatively configured to selectively verify that the destination computer is  
7   properly associated with the first key as provided by the key generator.

8  
9           63.    A system as recited in claim 56, wherein the first portion is provided  
10   to the destination computer via a first computer readable medium, the modified  
11   second portion is provided to the destination computer via a second computer  
12   readable medium that is a different type of computer readable medium than the  
13   first computer readable medium.

14  
15           64.    A system as recited in claim 63, wherein the first computer readable  
16   medium includes a fixed computer readable medium and the second computer  
17   readable medium includes a network communication.

18  
19           65.    A system as recited in claim 50, wherein the identifier is further  
20   configured to access computer identification data within a destination computer  
21   and include the computer identification data within the unique identifier data  
22   associated with the destination computer.

66. A system as recited in claim 45, wherein the identifier is further configured to receive user identification data at a destination computer and include the user identification data within the unique identifier data associated with the destination computer.

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